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Prior to the first sentence of the application following the title, please enter the following paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of provisional application Serial No. 60/178,139, filed January 25, 2000.

On a new page 16, please enter the following title and paragraph:

ABSTRACT

Methods for identifying and locating alterations in a nucleic acid having a known sequence are provided. The methods involve measuring the melting temperature of probe nucleic acids hybridized to a target nucleic acid. The methods take advantage of the differential dissociation temperatures of a probe from a target resulting from mismatches at different locations along the region of the target to which the probe hybridizes.

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